

Brentwood Urban District Council

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR

1940



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Brentwood Urban District Council

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor J. F. Hough, M.A., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. J. Farrow.

Councillors :

Mrs. A. E. F. Banwell.	T. H. Scrivener.
W. F. R. Boardman.	W. G. Stevens, J.P.
H. E. Brownnett.	E. G. Stone.
A. V. Cave.	W. P. Tabor.
F. Collins.	Major J. D. Tritton, M.B.E.
R. Garstang.	W. S. Venner.
G. A. Joslin.	J. T. West, J.P. (Chairman of
A. L. Kennedy.	Health Committee—deceased
W. E. Lane.	17th December, 1940).
Mrs. M. A. Masefield (Vice-	R. H. Willard.
Chairman of the Health	S. A. Wilson.
Committee).	S. J. Wingrave.
G. A. D. McTurk.	M. Wynne.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part Time):

B. Fraser Beatson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(late Indian Medical Service and R.A.F. Medical Service).

BACTERIOLOGIST AND ANALYST:

E. V. Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
The Counties Public Health Laboratories,
91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

F. G. Spencer, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food
Inspector, and Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

E. Badcock, M.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food
Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

CLERKS AND SHORTHAND TYPISTS:

N. F. Webber (*Royal Navy*).
Miss P. E. B. Wenden.
Miss D. H. Fraser.

BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1940.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Interim Annual Report for the year 1940, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 2314 of the Ministry of Health. In this abridged form many of the features of previous Annual Reports are omitted, but by the preservation of records it will be possible to report on them when the Ministry considers the time to be suitable.

Towards the end of the year under review the Council lost its Chairman of the Health Committee, by the death at a ripe age of Councillor J. T. West, J.P., who for very many years had taken a keen interest in all Public Health matters in Brentwood.

Mr. West's kindly help to this Department was always greatly appreciated by the Staff and it is with very great regret that I record his passing.

I have, as usual, to express warm appreciation of the work of my Staff throughout 1940, and to thank my fellow Officials and all members of the Council for their continued assistance and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Ingrave Road,
Brentwood.

SECTION A.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The usual facilities were provided by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory set up by the Medical Research Council was moved from Brentwood School to St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay. As this Laboratory was instituted as auxiliary to, and not in place of, existing facilities there was little need to make use of its services during the year.

Midwives.

Nursing Homes.

Ambulance Facilities.

} No noteworthy change in these services
occurred.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

These continued to be carried on by the County Council on lines similar to those reported on in 1939, with certain alterations necessitated by the taking over of buildings for other purposes.

Hospitals.

The arrangements recorded last year remained unaltered.

SECTION B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

During the year 22 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological and/or chemical analysis with the following results :—

16 samples taken from public supplies ; one from an institution storage tank showed evidence of contamination, the remainder were of a high standard of bacterial purity.

4 samples taken from shallow wells, two of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

2 samples taken from swimming pools were satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Description of Work Carried Out during the Year 1940.

Total number of inspections and re-inspections made :—

	Primary.	Re-inspections.
Sanitary Defects	137	284
Infectious Diseases	66	25
Verminous or Dirty Houses	47	37
Water Supply	21	9
Drains and Sewers Inspected or Tested	58	22
Cesspools	25	12
Sanitary Conveniences—Licensed Premises	10	—
,, ,, Schools	1	—
Ponds, Ditches, Watercourses	13	11
Rat-infested Premises	30	32
Council Houses	57	—
War Damage to Property	661	—
Mortuary Duties	57	—
Air Raid Precautions	135	—
Evacuation	64	—
Knackers Yards	37	—
Miscellaneous Visits	292	2
	1,711	434

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses :—

Day	736
Evening or early morning	204
Sunday	17
Meat Shops	19
Provision and other Food Shops	37
Dairies and Milk Shops	25
Cowsheds	81
Samples of Milk	62
Samples of Water	22
	1,203

Total number of inspections :—3,348.

SECTION C.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	131
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	415
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	2
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	14
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	9

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | Nil |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES. Milk Supply.

During the year 62 samples of milk were obtained from producers and retail purveyors and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in order to test the purity of the milk produced and sold in the district.

Summary of Samples taken :—

Number of samples taken from dairy farms at time of production	...	...	...	...	7
Number of samples taken from retail purveyors	...	...	...	...	38
Number of samples of Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	17
					62
Number of Producers on Register	...	...	...	...	45
Number of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	84
Number of Cows (approx.)	...	...	...	...	1,350
Number of Inspections of Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	81
Number of Accredited Producers	...	...	...	...	33
Number of Retail Purveyors with premises in the Urban District	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Retail Purveyors with Premises Outside the Urban District	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Shops retailing Bottled Milk only	...	...	...	...	9
Number of Inspections of Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	25

Accredited Producers.

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	7
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	7

Pasteurised Milk.

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	17
14 samples satisfied the Bacteriological and/or Phosphatase tests.					
3 samples failed in the Bacteriological test.					

Ungraded Milk.

38 samples of milk taken from retail purveyors and submitted to the Bacteriological and Coliform tests :—

19 samples satisfied both tests.

7 samples were unsatisfactory.

NOTE.—Owing to delay in transit the result of the analysis of 12 samples was valueless.

Meat and Other Foods.**Slaughterhouses.**

Number of Premises 8

Number of Inspections 957

Owing to the Government control of slaughtering of livestock, only two slaughterhouses were in use during the major part of the year.

Total number of carcasses inspected 9,821

Carcases inspected and Carcasses, parts and organs condemned as unfit for human consumption.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Inspected	1,197	455	235	4,768	3,166
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	12	3	25	39
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	180	151	2	67	108
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	15.12	35.82	2.12	1.92	4.64
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	35	Nil	Nil	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	104	289	1	Nil	83
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.44	71.20	0.42	Nil	2.81

Surrender of Unsound Food.

Number of whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, organs and offals surrendered :—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
Whole carcasses, including organs ...	57	25	45	3
Part carcasses	33	6	8	—
Heads	127	2	63	—
Tongues	129	2	63	—
Lungs	289	37	74	—
Hearts	27	11	67	—
Livers	271	46	78	1
Kidneys	49	—	15	—
Mesenteries	63	1	37	1
Spleen	37	3	17	—
Diaphragm	43	—	—	—
Intestines	9	—	—	—
Udders	11	—	—	—
Strippings	14	—	1	—
Shin	1	—	—	1

Reason for Surrender, with Weight.

	Cattle. lbs.	Pigs Sheep. lbs.	SHEEP Pigs. lbs.	Calves. lbs.
Tuberculosis	33,374	1,747	—	1
Injury	1,504	76	24	—
Parasitic or Cystic Condition ...	1,987	31	181	—
Inflammation	977	370	56	—
Purulent growth	277	16	—	—
Septicaemia	940	—	193	—
Emaciation—Pathological ...	1,397	56	586	—
Fevered condition	10	1,373	31	42
Dropsy	3,946	61	174	52
Melanosis	318	—	—	—
Necrosis	234	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	30	124	—	4
Infiltration	69	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	63	—	—	—
	45,126	3,854	1,245	99

Other Foodstuffs.

Bacon	...	1,087 lbs.	Decomposition.
Imported Ham	...	134 lbs.	Decomposition.
Imported Beef	...	48 lbs.	Purulent growth.
Fish	...	74 lbs.	Decomposition.
Butter	...	4 lbs.	Decomposition.

Total ... 1,347 lbs.

Total weight of meat and other food condemned :—

23 tons, 1 cwt., 1 qtr., 1 lb.

Knackers Yards.

Number of premises	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	37

SECTION E.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

In spite of war-time conditions there was no serious increase in notifiable diseases during the year. There was less Scarlet Fever than in 1939. The likelihood of a widespread epidemic of Measles or Whooping Cough had not fortunately materialised up to the end of December, 1940, and there was no evidence that the use of Air Raid Shelters had any untoward influence in the spread of disease. The Dysentery Cases all occurred in Brentwood Mental Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Every effort was made to increase the number of immunised children in the District, and towards the end of the year a special drive was commenced to obtain consents for younger children through Infant Welfare Centres. As a result, a good number of such consents were given which were due to be dealt with early in 1941.

The immunising agent employed continued to be Toxin Antitoxin Floccules purchased by the Council, but arrangements were made to change to the Government issue of Alum Precipitated Toxoid as soon as existing stocks of the former had been used up.

The total number of children attending the Immunisation Clinic was 255, of whom 212 were fully immunised and 43 partially immunised. Many of the partially immunised children left the District before the injections could be completed.

Issue of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Issues of Diphtheria Antitoxin for Doctors for the treatment of actual cases of Diphtheria amounted to 50,000 units.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Age Groups.											Totals.
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	3	3	39	14	1	3	—	—	64
Diphtheria ...	1	2	3	5	10	10	2	1	1	1	—	36
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	1	—	11
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	12
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	8	—	—	12
Whooping Cough ...	2	2	1	5	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	19
Measles ...	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	4	4	—	—	14
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	17	21	50	110
Totals ...	5	5	6	14	16	60	17	12	41	24	56	282